



Lots of New Stuff Coming

I have been so busy with the "day gig" that I have had to push back issue twelve of **ukulele player** a little further than I had hoped. It is finally here.

We have had a bunch of ukuleles sent to us for review and we are excited about what is happening at Ohana and Kala. Quality continues to improve and as far as ukuleles are concerned, it's a buyer's market.

We have two book reviews this issue. Curt Sheller's "A Guide to Ukulele Strums" is just what the name implies. Facing Future, by Dan Kois, is the story of IZ, Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, his short life, and his meteoric rise to fame, though too late for him to enjoy.

We have three CDs to review. First, A.J. Leonard brings us "12 Seasons (Two-Part Preludes For the Ukulele)". Then, "Ukulele Day" from John McDonald. Finally, we have Chip Mergott's "This Little Light", described as Hymns for the Ukulele.

Ohana has sent be a couple shipments of new ukuleles. In this issue, we feature the new TK-20CE, a really great tenor

Ukulele that is perfect for the working professional or someone wanting to play with an amplifier or plug directly into recording equipment.

Kala Ukes has sent us the new KA-KCG-CT, an amazing concert uke. It is one of the loudest ukes we have ever played!

Suzanne Brindamour, featured in the issue 11 of **ukulele player** is kicking off a tour to promote "Barnstorming" and I plan to catch up with her in Troy, Ohio on May 8th, 2010 (and do a follow-up article with some pictures from the show and the event. If you really love aviation history and had a chance to catch the movie, check out the tour and maybe you can get a chance to meet the pilots and Suzanne. She'll be the lady playing the Ohana CK-50G on stage.

Spring is here and that always puts me in the mood to venture into the great outdoors and have some fun in the sun. There are folk music festivals all over the USA and Canada and I am sure that Europe has plenty of events to please ukulele fans

and fanatics. Then there are the festivals.

In the news, Victoria Vox has been making a video and working on her new album. So, we hope to catch up with VV at some point in the not-too-distant-future and get the latest news.

Jake Shimabukuro had to postpone a couple of shows due to a family issue and we hope all is well with him.

So, let's get on with the news, reviews, and other good things to take your mind off tax time and worries of the day. There's music to be played.

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Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

Israel Ka'ano'i Kamakawiwo'ole a.k.a. "IZ" was born May 20, 1959 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Due to complications from obesity, he died prematurely on June 26, 1997 leaving a young widow and daughter behind.

"IZ", as his fans know him, was not fond of schooling and decided at a young age that education was largely a waste of his time. Instead, he turned his attention to music.

In the 1970s, IZ, his brother "Skippy", and three friends (Louis "Moon" Kauakahi, Sam Gray, and Jerome Koko) formed the Hawaiian music band "Makaha Sons of Ni'ihau".

The "Sons" released several albums (No Kristo, Kahea O Keale, Keala, Makaha Sons Of Ni'ihau and Mahalo Ke Akua) before Skippy died.

IZ recorded three more albums with the group before pursuing his "solo career (Puana Hou Me Ke Aloha, Ho'ola, Ho'oluana).

In 1990, IZ released his first solo album. Ka'ano'i won the Contemporary Album of the Year. IZ also won the "Male Vocalist of the Year" from the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts.

Israel had little self-control when it came to food. He battled obesity his whole life and stories are conflicting regarding exactly how much weight he actually had. Some reports say that IZ had as much as 770 pounds of weight before he died. Other accounts, including author of Facing Future, Dan Kois, claims that figure was as high as 1000 pounds at the time of his death.

Unfortunately, IZ never lived long enough to see the bulk of his success. His music took a meteoric rise in the mainstream thanks to Hollywood.

My wife first heard "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" on the movie "Finding Forester" soundtrack. She fell in love with that rendition and we ended up buying the movie and "Facing Future" just to get that song. My wife then followed up with two more albums.

My wife was not alone in her love of the song. It was also used in "Meet Joe Black" and a couple other successful movies, on a couple TV shows, and in a couple TV commercials, too. It seems that everyone fell in love with IZ' rendition of "Rainbow". His arrangement of the classic Judy Garland hit made a big splash and piles of money.



IZ was larger than life and it is said that he never really cared enough about his weight to curb his appetite. To his credit, though, many people loved the man, even with a reputation for being unreliable.

There are lots of pictures on the internet of IZ playing ukulele. It seems that he had a thing for Martin and Kamaka ukes. That is no surprise given the tradition of Kamaka and the fame of Martin ukes, even among Hawaiian players old and new. Some say IZ played a tenor, others claim he played a soprano. In most of the pictures, I can't really tell. What I do know is that whatever ukulele he played, it was not really his playing that was special, it was his voice.

Thanks to Israel Kamakawiwo'ole and his rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", Hawaiian music hit the mainland with the biggest growth since the 1920s ukulele craze.

When you mention ukulele, not long ago, the only names people knew were Tiny Tim and Don Ho. Now, you hear Jake, IZ, and Ohta-San, then the list meanders through a long line of less known performers. Ukulele fans are in agreement, though, IZ had a big hand in the new ukulele renaissance.



Facing Future

Facing Future, by Dan Kois, is the story of "IZ" the album, and the recording artist Israel Kamakawiwo'ole.

Chapter One starts with the story of "IZ" and a recording done in the wee hours of the morning that has become the symbol, for many main-landers, of Hawaii and its people. I refer to Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

That fateful night, IZ recorded a rendition of the song made famous by Judy Garland in the "Wizard of Oz" and miraculously fifteen years later, it is still receiving more airplay than just about any other ukulele tune with the possible exception of Jake Shimabukuro's rendition of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps".

Chapter Two depicts IZ as a fat brat with a bully's attitude and not much interested in school. He spent summers in a remote part of the islands and played lots of music.

By Chapter Three you get the idea that IZ was often in trouble. He was a clown on his good behavior and a punk at other times. Before the chapter is over, however, the "band", Makaha Sons of Niihau are formed and gigging with some of the day's most popular artists.

By Chapter Four IZ weighs over 700 pounds and is headed for the hospital.

I want to stop the play-by-play here. I brought you this far to give you a feel for the book.

"Facing Future" is a biography of Israel Kamakawiwo'ole. It starts with that late-night recording session because that was the song that gave him fame to the REST of the world, that is, the world outside Hawaii.

The book then back-tracks to Israel's birth and early years. It tells how he took up playing at a tender age and went through what little schooling he had cutting classes to play music.

The tail is bittersweet. There is a lot of Hawaiian history and the culture of the little towns of pure native people that clung to the last remnants of their traditions in the face of Western influence. Israel and his brother Skippy used their association with the old traditions to entrench themselves in that musical genre.

I can see that a lot of history was researched in the writing of this book and it brings to light a lot more than the making of a man mountain and his music.

The proud people of Hawaii, the native-stock and few pure-blood islanders had a profound influence on IZ and the music in "Facing Future".

I don't suppose that I will ever think of IZ the same way after reading this book. I know that I feel for the people that lost their culture to the modern world and American government.

What happened was not all negative. Prosperity came to the islands beyond anything prior to annexation, but the people of Hawaii would never be the same.

Meanwhile, the influence of Hawaiian music set off a frenzy of activity after the ukulele made its jump to the mainland.

By the time that IZ recorded "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" the mainland was ready to embrace Hawaiian culture even though IZ was not ready to embrace the mainland.

IZ never lived to see his popularity blossom. It is a sad tale. Thanks to this book, however, there is hope that the story of Hawaiian culture and the changes of history will be told and understood.

"Facing Forward" is a fascinating book. I highly recommend it for IZ fans and anyone wanting to learn about the people of Hawaii and the music and spirit of the islands. For ukulele players and fans of Hawaiian music, it is a must read. I hope you find it as interesting as I did.



12 Seasons

Two-Part Preludes For the Ukulele - by A.J. Leonard

A.J. Leonard was featured in a CD review previously. His "Tales From the Tropics" was a great collection of instrumental and vocal-oriented music.

"12 Seasons", mentioned in the [ukulele player](#) interview, is now completed and I recently received a copy for this review.

The lineup of tunes is as follows:

1. September - G Major
2. October - Ab Major
3. November - A Major
4. December - Bb Major
5. January - B Major
6. February - C Major
7. March - C# Major
8. April - D Major
9. May - Eb Major
10. June - E Major
11. July - F Major
12. August - F# Major

All twelve compositions are A.J.'S originals. I'd like to point out that none are in the same key. I am not sure if that means anything.

"September" is lively from the very start. It is light and cheerful. There is a good bit of reverb in this tune, but it lends it an almost "pitter-patter" quality. The picking and strumming technique works very well here.

"October" starts very low volume, then it rises to an old-world flavor. It could be Italian or Spanish in feel.

"November" moves up and down the neck and has a steady meter. This track makes my feet want to start tapping.

"December" has a nice chop to it and the timing is superb. I love the energy of this track. There are great accents all through this number. The uke lends itself to a nice percussion beat when played like this.

"January" has a busy bee-like rhythm pattern to it. I love the chords running down the neck.

"February" features a simple strum and picking combination. I love the bluesy, subtle treatment half-way through this track.

"March" brings an ethereal mix of chord changes. The sound is clear and the reverb is very well done. There is an atmospheric quality in this track.

"April" has a light melody and reminds me of another old film with dancers in a European village. It moves quickly to the last note.



"May" features a quick cadence and nice strum accents. The meter, again, is flawless.

"June" has a little more reverb. There is also a little slower rhythm and that might be the reason for the heavier reverb. I like the accents. Nicely done.

"July" is quick. This song is quick and light. The tune features fast finger-picking and nice chord accents. Again, there is a haunting, atmospheric quality about it.

"August" wraps up this CD with a more of the same qualities found in previous tracks. This tune has a really great flavor to it. I think it is my favorite of the whole album. The strumming work is first-rate and somehow this number gives me images of yesteryear.

I found this entire project well executed and totally relaxing. The production is clean and nothing is too much or too little.

A.J. Leonard has given us a really enjoyable collection of tunes that make me want to grab a ukulele and play along. Great stuff!



Ukulele Day

John McDonald sent me this CD "Ukulele Day" for review.

Unlike the other CDs I have reviewed in the past, this one is a collaboration of artists. It features Bill Tapia, Miguel Mendiola, John McDonald, Valerie Ford, Cathy Laurie, Mario Rossi, Jim Throgmorton, and Jim Glasgow.

This CD is a mix of instrumentals, blues, island songs and a bit of barbershop.

Here's the line-up:

1. Ukulele Day
2. I Get the Blues When it Rains
3. Samba De Orpheus
4. Darkness on the Delta
5. Meet Me In Maui
6. Trouble in Mind
7. Lady Be Good
8. Firefly
9. Island Song
10. Blues Stay Away From Me
11. Fortune In Dreams
12. I'm Satisfied
13. Satin Doll
14. Make Me A Pallet on the Floor
15. Children of the Land

"Ukulele Day" is an upbeat tune by Valerie Ford. It is the title track and a fun tune.

"I Get the Blues When it Rains" is a song I have heard before. It is a classic theme. Nice rhythm work. Good harmonies. Nice lead work.

"Samba De Orpheus" is classic jazz. I really like this rendition.

"Darkness on the Delta" is a tune I have heard performed by the Singing Buckeyes Barbershop Chorus. It is a classic tune from the world of Barbershop.

"Meet Me in Maui" this has a Reggae beat to it and is a fun song. I love the percussion. I want to play along.

"Trouble In Mind" has a nice little bluesy riff in the background. Nice mix. I'd love to hear a nice solid bass track on this number.

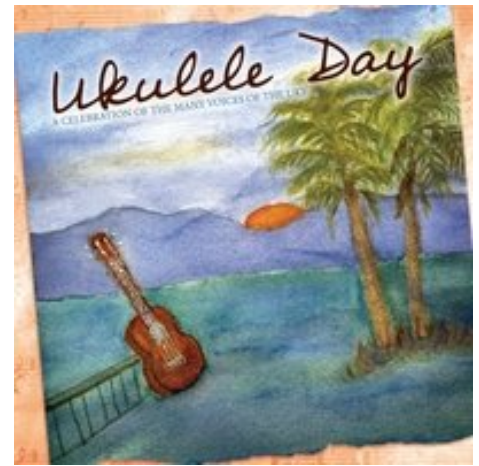
"Lady Be Good" is another jazz number. Nicely done and nicely mixed.

"Firefly" sounds like something from the 1930s. It reminds me of writers like Gus Kahn or Gershwin.

"Island Song" has a Reggae sort of rhythm to it and Hawaiian flavor. I love the percussion. There is a lot of keyboard in this number.

"Blues Stay Away From Me" is the perfect follow-up to Island Song. Nice simple harmonies and a standard chord progression.

"Fortune In Dreams" is a cute



tune. I like it! Follow this song with "I'm Satisfied". This is perfect placement. This tune has a nice instrumental intro.

"Satin Doll" is another jazz number. I remember a Duke Ellington rendition of this tune.

"Make Me A Pallet on Your Floor" has a nice strumming rhythm. Again, this song features solid two-part harmonies. This song also features a very nice lead break in it— stylish and sweet.

"Children of the Land" wraps up this musical collection. This song is moody and carries a powerful message if you listen to the lyrics. The song picks up when the drums kick in. The keyboard work on this is very nice.

The entire album is well produced and the song placement is really well-planned. This is a pleasant mix of jazz, blues, island music and old standards. The barbershop influence is a nice touch.

I'd love to hear Darkness On the Delta with a quartet and the ukuleles. Barbershop and ukulele are well-suited for each other. Nice CD. I enjoyed it.

Acoustic/Electric

There is a solid case to be made for acoustic/electric ukuleles for stage performers and recording musicians.

On stage, there is nothing more confining than to be stuck at a microphone in order for your ukulele to be heard. Sure, it is okay if you are seated, but, if you are standing, you are going to cause problems if you move even a foot away from your mic.

Ohana, Kala, and other ukulele manufacturers have been listening to performing musicians and are introducing more instruments with pickups onboard.

The benefits to having an acoustic/electric uke for performing and recording musicians is obvious. First, you are mobile. You are not stuck at the mic stand, but the biggest benefit is that you have more control over both recording and performing volume.

Pickups are getting better and all of the manufacturers are displaying better workmanship. Quality issues are few and far between now and the price differences between acoustic and acoustic/electric models has come down.

If you play on stage, you owe it to yourself to check out the latest ukuleles with pickups. And don't forget acoustic instrument amplifiers. They are designed to give you the best tone and performance for your buck.



The Barnkickers - Steve Boisen and Amanda in **ukulele player** hats.



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Ohana TK-20CE

There are some instruments that I just love right from the moment I pick them up. The new Ohana TK-20CE is one such instrument.

Louis Wu and I have bounced lots of e-mails back and forth since I began publishing this magazine. One of the questions Louis had for me is a tentative "wish list", things I'd like to see in future ukulele designs. This tenor-sized uke has several of those suggestions, but I really don't think any credit goes to me for them.

The TK-20CE sports a mahogany laminated back and sides (which I like for dimensional stability— for a performing musician, that is a big plus). It features a solid mahogany top that is lively and perfectly finished. The body is bound with classic black and white plastic. It is a very clean look. The body is also has a satin finish. I prefer that, too, for looks and photo opportunities.

The sealed tuners are sturdy and smooth, chrome finished, not too big, not too small. They do the job nicely.

The headstock is mahogany and has a classy-looking pearl Ohana inlay. It's a perfect compliment to the piece.

The rosette is understated, and I prefer it that way. It is elegant in its simplicity.

The neck has a rosewood fretboard and the bridge is rosewood. The nut and saddle are Ohana's usual bone material and the action is exactly the way I like it on this instrument.

Ohana fitted the uke with the UK-2000 pickup. I plugged it into an Acoustic AG-60 amp and it performed flawlessly. The tone control was excellent and the volume was as soft and sweet or as hot as I wanted to make it.

This ukulele is a little heavier than a solid-wood tenor due to the laminated back and sides, but for a working musician, again, that is a benefit. This uke can take a tour with no worries.

I test an acoustic/electric uke for things that matter to stage performers. One is excess noise. This uke performed extremely well in that respect. If you hit the saddle, you will get some popping, and that is normal for every under-saddle transducer. Play it in the normal manner, you won't have any problems. The pickup is well set in the bridge. There are no issues with



High action or low. Whoever did the factory setup did an exceptional job.

The intonation is perfect all the way up the neck and the frets are dressed beautifully top and bottom. There are no sharpened edges to catch your fingernails.

The fit and finish of this uke are also exceptionally nice. I found

no flaws on any seam. I found no finish imperfections, not even a ding or a dent. This ukulele was handled and packaged with care.

The tone of this ukulele was a pleasant change from lots of the tenors I sample these days. Rather than being fitted with Aquila strings like most makers are doing, Ohana chose what appears to be GHS with a wound "C" string. The uke is tuned re-entrant style GCEA.

The tone across the strings is very nice. It is richer than a lot of tenor ukes I have played. It is not as loud as some and louder than others. I attribute that to the laminated back and sides. I do want to clarify, though, that there is still plenty of volume when I play this ukulele acoustically.

One big advantage of a laminated uke played through an amp or PA system is that there is less noise from handling and also less feedback. Some people debate the reason for this latter point, but there is a lot of anecdotal evidence to support this statement.

When I play an acoustic instrument, with or without a pickup, I listen for "note separation".

If you have ever heard an acoustic instrument that just sounds somewhat muddy or distorted, or something sounds wrong and you cannot place your finger on it, then you are most likely hearing poor note separation.

From the highest registers to the lowest, I listen for clarity played up and down the neck. If playing the uke sounds like the instrument is buzzing or individual notes don't sound distinguishable, there is a design flaw somewhere.

A nicely designed and well-built uke will have note clarity whether strumming or finger-picking it.

Once I have determined that the instrument has good note separation, it's time to plug it into the amplifier or recording equipment and play a bit. Again, I am listening for clarity and note separation.

Some acoustic/electric instruments sound thin and twangy. Others are deep and muddy. The trick is building an instrument that vibrates well enough to transmit sound well and not create confusion.

If you follow my explanation, then try several of your own ukuleles and guitars and see if you can pick the differences in note separation.

With a pickup, the rules change. What you want is the same clarity, and balanced volume across the strings. If you have that, then the pickup was installed properly and will perform well for you, whether live or in the studio.

This particular Ohana TK-20CE is first-rate. It performed flawlessly on all counts. I love the tone, love the action, and the pickup was perfect. Great job!



Coming Soon...

Louis Wu sent me several brand new ukuleles that are not even on their website at this point, so, here is a sneak peek at two soprano ukes that I am predicting will be a BIG HIT in the UK, in particular, and wherever ukulele traditionalists are found.

You are looking at the Ohana SK-50 and SK-70 (above). Both are identical with the exception of the sound-board. One is spruce and the other is cedar. They both sound fantastic and I will review each one in coming issues.

Both of these models were inspired by the CK-50G, which Louis tells me is what he believes to be the "best sounding" Ohana ukulele and remains a big seller the world over. If you get a chance to try these new sopranos, you'd better have your wallet with you because you will fall in love.



Kala KA-KCG-CT

The new Kala KA-KCG-CT ukulele sure is a pretty thing.

This ukulele is part of Kala's Koa line of ukuleles and really looks beautiful. It is a concert-sized uke with a high-gloss finish.

Laminated Koa back and sides look fantastic and the SOLID cedar top is flawless. The glossy finish really shows off the beauty of its wood-grain.

This uke, like the other instruments in the Koa series, sports maple binding. It is the perfect contrast to the rich koa back and sides and is a compliment to the cedar top.

The koa is trimmed in Paua shell on the top, back and headstock and the rosette... Very classy.

Kala used a pearl logo on the headstock and chrome cast tuners with diminutive black buttons. They feel smooth and well-built. The uke holds tune extremely well.

Kala provides Aquila strings on this uke and they really sound great. This is one of the loudest ukuleles I have ever played and the tone is wonderful. The choices of woods and construction are first-rate.

The neck of this instrument has another non-typical inlay. While it reminds me of the Acacia series ukes, the inlay shape is really different. Kala seems to have made strides to separate its products from the competition. There is no doubt, they have found ways to distinguish themselves from the pack.

The uke has a comfortable, half-round neck that features a rosewood fretboard and feels very comfortable in my hands. There is also a rosewood bridge. The nut and saddle are bone.

The note separation on this uke is really clear and that tells me this uke is a well-designed instrument.

The "C" string is a little flat, but it is not the intonation, it is the string itself. That can happen easily enough and really is no reflection on this instrument. Since this is the "give-away" ukulele for this issue, my advice to the lucky winner is just swap the string or change the set and you should have a really fantastic ukulele that will give you endless hours of enjoyment.

The intonation on this uke is spot on, to, tune carefully. I played it all the way up the neck and the



tone held up well and there was plenty of volume.

The Kala KA-KCG-CT is a winner in my book and is one ukulele that I would not mind adding to my own collection. It has beautiful looks, great tone, tuners that are smooth and well-made, and the cedar top is really sweet. It will only get sweeter with age.



A Guide to Ukulele Strums

Curt Sheller's book "A Guide to Ukulele Strums" is an essential guide for the beginning ukulele player.

Here is a small excerpt from the book's introduction:

"One of the first skills a ukulele player learns is the art and craft of strumming, playing rhythm. This refers to an accompaniment technique suitable for the singer, singer-songwriter or someone who plays a support role for another instrument."

It's true, strumming is the first essential skill apart from learning to make chord-shapes with your "fret-hand" when you first start learning to play the ukulele.

Success in the art comes from a combination of motor skills and being able to "feel" the music.

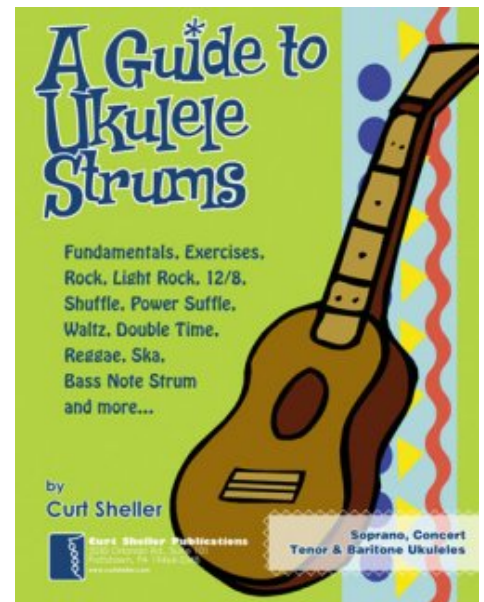
What Curt Sheller does in "A Guide to Ukulele Strums" is teach you solid techniques that will help you develop a "feel" for the music if you don't have it already. Then, he guides you through the basics to get you started and offers you plenty of advanced tools to grow as your ability becomes more finely tuned.

This book starts with a basic

Over-view and takes you from understanding the rhythm and strumming symbols through quarter-note strums, sustained notes, rock strums, 12/8 strums, shuffle strums, double-time strums, gallop strums, flowing $\frac{3}{4}$ strums, ska, emphasis on base notes, $\frac{3}{4}$ strums, cut time— even Reggae strums.

Curt explains everything clearly and even has supporting materials on his website.

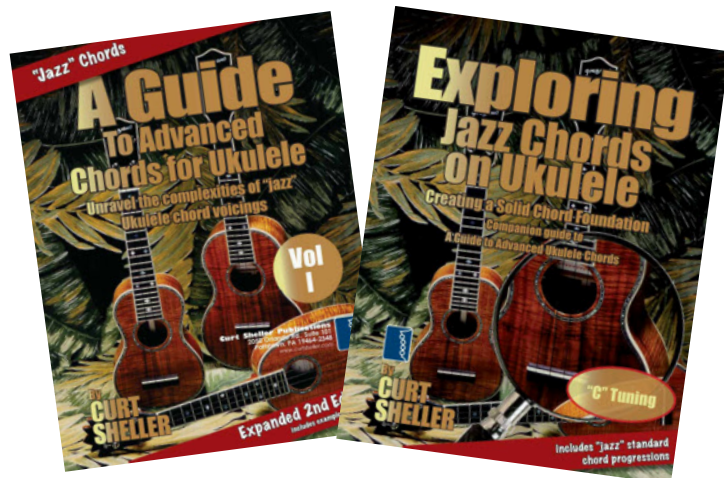
As you grow, there are more books with advanced lessons and examples to follow. You can carry these techniques



from one book to the next.

There are lots of free lessons on Curt's website in addition to premium content and a huge library of books to keep you learning.

Check out Curt's even calendar. You might be able to catch a seminar at one of the coming festivals this summer.



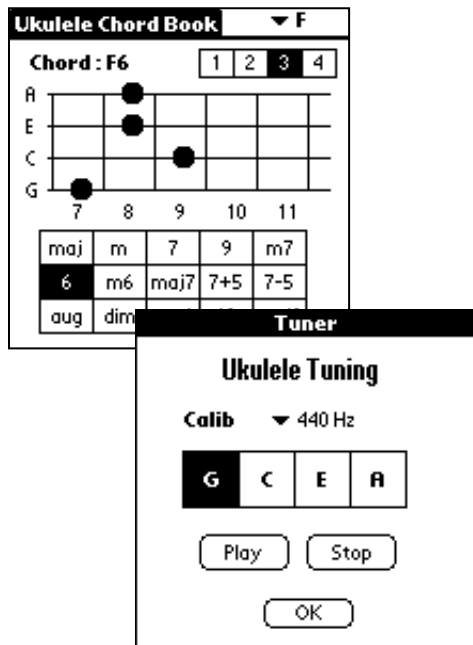
Beyond learning basic ukulele chords most players struggle with advanced chords. Commonly called "jazz chords", these more sophisticated chord voicings find a wide use in all forms of music.

If your goal is to expand your chord vocabulary, "A Guide to Advanced Chords for Ukulele" is your answer.

<http://www.curtsheller.com>

UkuleleCB

There have been a few times when I was playing music with other ukulele enthusiasts when someone had a question about a relatively uncommon chord. Fortunately for me, I carry a Palm Tungsten E2 with "UkuleleCB", a ukulele chord



Got Uke?



You can find Kala Ukuleles at
www.ukeladymusic.com

Database (pictured above). There is a huge number of chords contained in this program. In fact, this application is the best I have found at what it does.

Now that Palm is making a pretty large number of "smart phones", I figured that I'd spread the word about this little application. It's free.

The application was created by Y. Kobayashi. It can be downloaded from this URL:

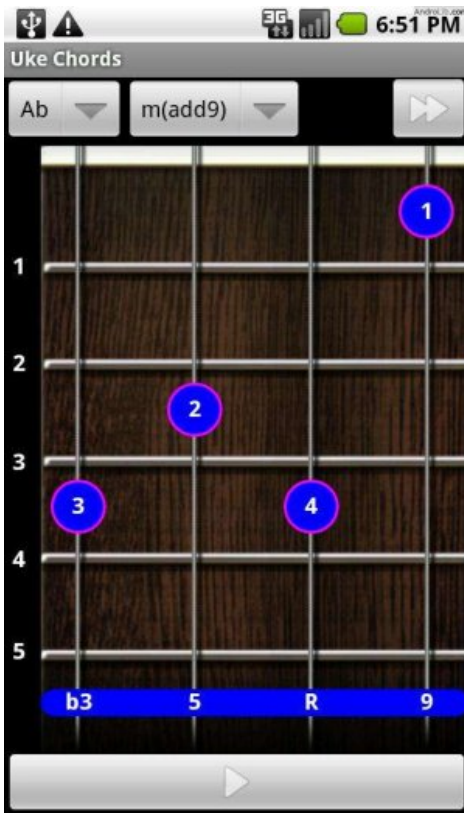
http://www.geocities.jp/yoshiaki_k/UkeCB/ukuleleCB.html



UkeChords

If you have an Apple iPhone or an iPod Touch, you should check out "UkeChords" from the Apple iTunes APP Store.

UkeChords has a lot of cool features and looks great.



I think I paid \$1.99 for this application, and I have not used it other than to play around with it when I first downloaded it.

If you are looking for a nice chord reference that you can carry anywhere, this application is a good one to consider.

From the little bit of play-time I had with it, I'd say that it is well worth the price of admission. Like most of the iTunes store, this application is bargain-priced and worth a lot more.



<http://www.wsukes.com>



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This Little Light

Hymns For the Ukulele

When it comes to ukulele, not many people associate the instrument with hymns and spiritual songs. That's why I was happy to see the song list on Chip Mergott's CD, "This Little Light".

Here is the song line-up:

1. This Little Light of Mine
2. What A Friend We Have In Jesus
3. Blessed Assurance
4. Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
5. It Is Well With My Soul
6. I Love to Tell the Story
7. Just As I Am
8. Jesus Loves Me
9. Nearer My God to Thee
10. Softly and Tenderly
11. When the Roll is Called Up Yonder
12. Amazing Grace

The first track, "This Little Light of Mine" starts with a fast tempo and is played with a solid rhythm and a picking lead. Chip is playing some traditional ukulele strums in this tune. Right near the end he jazzes things up a bit and then goes into a long fade.

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus" is more up-tempo than I am used to hearing. It is tight, just faster. Again, there is a solid strum track with a picking track.

"Blessed Assurance" is another tune that is a little more upbeat

than I hear traditionally played. Once again, there is a solid foundation strum and the picking track is in perfect timing. There is a key-change on the last verse.

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" is a tune that I have only heard once or twice prior to listening to this CD.

"It Is Well With My Soul" is played or sang slowly by tradition. This rendition is a little up-tempo. It does not feel rushed. Too slow and the song would not feel right. This is about the right tempo for an instrumental version of this classic song.

"I Love to Tell the Story" has a pronounced rhythm in it. It reminds me of the Mummers musical play-style.

"Just As I Am" is another tune that is often played slowly. In fact, by tradition it is typically played so slowly that it drags. Chip has found the right tempo.

"Jesus Loves Me" picks up the tempo quite a bit. This is a great choice to follow "Just As I Am" since there is a pronounced different in meter. The high accents give this song more drive. It's a fun rendition.



"Nearer My God to Thee" is one of the oldest traditional worship tunes still heard frequently. It is another slow-paced song. The earliest recording of it I have ever heard was by Irish tenor John McCormick. This rendition is a slight bit faster than McCormick's recording (78 RPM vinyl).

"Softly and Tenderly" is a beautiful traditional spiritual song. Again, this is a slow tune that is just slightly more upbeat and it carries well at that speed.

"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" brings the tempo up several notches. This song has a nice underlying rhythm and nice accents. Timing is perfect.

"Amazing Grace" is one of the most played spiritual songs. This track is a great way to end this CD. Nice tempo and nicely played. This is the most popular tune of this collection.

Chip Mergott has a nice collection of hymns and spiritual songs in this CD. The production is excellent and the musicianship leaves nothing lacking. If you want a nice collection of hymns, this is it.



<http://www.ukulelecosmos.com> - excitement, music, lively discussion, and a whole lot more...



ALOHA TEXAS!

3-Day Festival and Music Camp
April 29, 30, and May 1, 2010
Dallas, Texas

Pre-Festival Event on April 27 & 28 JAMES HILL - "Train the Teachers Workshop"

Registration Information

First 50 to register will be in a drawing to win a uke!

The line-up of talented performers and teachers this year is AMAZING and the theme...

Texas Swing with Aloha!

Performers include the following: James Hill, Gerald Ross, Kimo Hussey, Debbie Porter, Pops Bayless, Mark "Spanky" Gutierrez, Ukulele Bartt and Dennis McBride... along with special guest appearances by The Wahooligans & more!

We are pleased to announce that a portion of proceeds from the Festival will be used to start a "Ukes In The Classroom" program in the North Texas Area! Brought to you by UkeLadyMusic and Dallas Ukulele Headquarters.

for more information contact: Noel Tardy - info@LoneStarUkeFest.com
or Mark Levine - Dallas Ukulele Headquarters.

ukulele player and Kala present...

ukulele player and Kala Ukuleles came together to bring you this exciting opportunity. One lucky reader will win this ukulele.



All you have to do is submit your name, an e-mail address, and a shipping address so that if you are the winner, we will be able to ship it to you. You only need to submit your information one time and you will be in the running for all of the Kala Ukulele give-a-ways.

You read about the Kala KA-KCG-CT ukulele in this issue of **ukulele player**, now, here is your chance to win it. Follow the instructions below...

We will not share your contact information with anyone for any reason.

note: if you have trouble with the form, e-mail your entry to giveaway@tricornpublications.com
Include name, shipping address, e-mail address.



Go to this website and fill in the form and click the submit button for your CHANCE to win. There is no purchase necessary. One submission per person will be counted. The lucky winner will be decided by a random number generator program. The contest entry cut-off date will be the 20th of every month of the current issue. The winner will be chosen on the 24th of that same month. The winner will be announced on Ukulele-Cosmos, Ukulele Underground, and Flea Market Music.

http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke_contest.htm

Thanks for reading **ukulele player**
and thanks to Kala Ukuleles for their support.



Ukulele Club Listings...

If you would like to list your club here, submit contact information at this website:

http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke_player.htm
 or e-mail me at this address:
mickey@tricornpublications.com
 We will add you to our list.

USA

Arizona

Scottsdale Strummers, Scottsdale AZ, Contact Pat McInnis
 weekly daytime meeting, monthly evening meeting
 email: pat@azukulele.com
 website: azukulele.com

Tucson Ukesters

Tucson, AZ
 Meet weekly - usually on Monday afternoon
 Contact: Kristi
twoazin@comcast.net

California

Nuked Ukes

We are in Auburn California. Welcoming players from all levels.
 contact: Loyce Smallwood
loy@foothill.net
www.kahi.com/loyce'sblog

Ukulele Society of America

Contact: Richard Douglas
 (760) 458-6656
 300 Carlsbad Village Dr.
 Carlsbad CA, 92008
http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukulele_society_of_america

Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz

www.ukuleleclub.com

One of the Largest Ukulele clubs in America! Usually meets every third thursday at Bocci's celler in Santa Cruz, but check the website, cause it sometimes changes. Or email Andy@cruzio.com for club information.



<http://www.wsukes.com>



<http://www.ukecast.com/mp3/>

German Village Music Haus

We Sell Ukuleles

expert setups for your fine
 ukuleles and guitars.

350 S. Grant Avenue
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

Bill Foley, owner and luthier.
www.gvmh.com
 (614) 228-8467
 email: info@gvmh.com

Ukulele Clubs continued

Connecticut

The Ukulele Club of Southern Connecticut and the
KookeeUkie Ukulele Band.

We welcome players of all skill levels and offer classes
for those new to the ukulele. Check our web site at
<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/uke-club/index.html>.

Pete Johnson

email=petejhnsn@sbcglobal.net

Florida

Tampa Bay Ukulele Society

www.meetup.com/tampabayukes

Each meeting will start with a group lesson followed by an informal jam session
for players of all levels. Everyone gets a chance to call a few tunes.

Chicago Illinois

CHUG - CHicago Ukulele Group

We have our monthly Chicago Uke Jam the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Please contact Henry at Henriness@gmail.com

Kansas (and Western Missouri)

Kansas City Ukesters

<http://www.kcuke.com>

Kentucky

Kentucky Ukes

meeting the fourth Sunday of every month

KentuckianaUkes@yahoo.com

Michigan

Two Harbors Ukulele Group (THUG), Two Harbors MN.

Email: al@agatebaymusic.com

Minnesota

StrumMn ukulele players

<http://strummn.nexo.com/>

New Mexico

The High Desert Sand Fleas

Meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at the

Albuquerque Press Club [6pm - 9pm]

2101 Highland Park Circle, Albuquerque, New Mexico - USA

contact: Stephen Hunt via email: hdsfgcea@gmail.com.

Ukulele Clubs continued

<http://sites.google.com/site/hdsfgcea/>

New York

Ukulele Club of Potsdam (New York)

meet-up every other Friday at 5PM at Tim's Comic & Game, 6 Main Street
contact: Tim Connolly tim@discoverpotsdam.com call: (315) 268-1598.
Loaner ukes available. Bring your uke and leave your cares at home!

Ohio

COUP (Central Ohio Ukulele Peeps)

coup@tricornpublications.com

Oklahoma

Green Country Ukes

Meeting the needs of ukulele players in the greater Tulsa area
contact via e-mail: rskjrmal@gmail.com

South Carolina

Lowcountry Strummers Ukulele Club

Charleston, SC metro area. We meet twice a month. One beginner class and open Jam each month. All are Welcome.
www.lowcountrystrummers.com **e-mail** lowcountrystrummers@gmail.com

Texas

Robert S. Sparkman
sparky.judy@tx.rr.com

Lone Star Ukulele Club (in North Dallas)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestarukuleles>

The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters

Go to www.meetup.com and search The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters to join the group. Lots of fun events and jams!

CHUG - Coffee House Ukulele Gang

Fort Worth, Texas

This wild west ukulele gang meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.
Contact Steve for more info. (steve_w_williams@yahoo.com)

Vermont

Vermont Ukulele Society

email: vyhnak@sover.net
Meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Virginia Ukulele Club

Vienna, Virginia

Ukulele Clubs continued

Meeting twice a month to play a huge range of traditional, tin pan alley, standards, and lots of pop tunes. Members come from the whole DC metro area, including Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland. All ages and levels of ability welcome.

Contact:
Ben Farrington
ukeclub@yahoo.com

Washington

Seattle Ukulele Players Association (SUPA)
www.seattleukulele.org/

UK England

Ukulele Society of Great Britain
43 Finstock Road, London W10 6LU
Tel: 020 8960 0459
Email: m@gicman.com

Cambridge Ukulele Co-operative [Cuckoo]
Meet alternate Sundays 2pm-6pm
The Portland Arms Cambridge CB4 3BAIf
If you're cuckoo about ukes come and join us.
<http://www.myspace.com/cambridgeukuleleclub>

Ukulele Philharmonic Orchestra of Sudbury
Tuesdays evenings from 7.00pm
The Institute, Station Road, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2SP
Beginners Welcome

Uke Wednesday Jam
Every Wednesday 7 till closing Downstairs @ The Royal George
Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0EA, U.K.
contact: Quinc email: qnc@qnctv.com
<http://ukeweds.intodit.com>

SCUPA - Second City Ukulele Players Association

We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the upstairs room
at The New Billesley Pub, Brook Lane, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, West Midlands B13 0AB

We accommodate all players beginners to experienced.

Call or text Jon 0787 353 1161 or email:
jay.eyebigfoot.com for more information.

Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express

Meeting monthly in Darlington, northeast England new members always
welcome. contact Simon at simonb250@hotmail.com

Ukulele Clubs continued

<http://ukuleleexpress.blogspot.com>

Tune Army Ukulele Club

The Bay Horse, Front Street, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4EF

Meeting first Monday of the month 7:30 - 9:30

<http://tunearmy.blogspot.com/>

UkeGlos Ukulele Club

Meets Every Mondays every month, 8.00pm

The Exmouth Arms, Bath Rd

Cheltenham, GL53 7LX

Wooden & banjo ukes welcome. All levels of playing ability & song styles. For

full details visit: www.ukeglos.co.uk

<http://www.ukeglos.co.uk>

Ukulele Sundays host:Tim Smithies

email: tim@timsmithies.com

I host a Ukulele Jam session on Sunday evenings in Sheffield UK called 'Ukulele Sundays' All welcome - 8.30pm onwards. Riverside Cafe Bar.

<http://www.ukulelesundays.co.uk>.

"Brighton ukulele Sundays"

Meet first Sunday of the month at the Brunswick Pub in Hove East Sussex UK.

Visit Facebook Brighton Ukulele Sundays for more details.

Leicester Ukulele Club

All welcome, First Monday of the month,

Upstairs at Babalas Bar, Queens Road, Leicester

Contact: dave.davies1@virgin.net or mark@littleredtruck.co.uk

Herts of Uke Ukulele Club

Every 4th Sunday - 6.30pm onwards.

Meet at The Doctors Tonic, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PR

All Players Welcome

Websites: <http://sites.google.com/site/hertsofuke/>

email: hertsofuke@gmail.com

Luton, UK

We meet once a fortnight at Greenbank Music Village,

Greenbank Hal, Cobden Street, Luton, LU2 0NG

Anyone interested can give us a call:

Keith 07745 613931

Scott 07976 895067

Gerry 07785 117029

<http://sites.google.com/site/ukuleleworkshopinluton/>

Ukulele Clubs continued

Ireland

UKULELE IRELAND

ukulele@ireland.com

Irish ukulele club meets on the second saturday of each month. Players from all over Ireland. Ukeplayers of all levels welcome. If you are a visiting uke player please feel free to come along. The meetups are held at 2, eden park, Dunlaoire, Co. Dublin.

Ukuholics

truepants@eircom.net

The Ukuholics are based in the Irish Midlands and meet once a month.

Players of any or no ability will fit in nicely!

Visit www.ukuholics.webs.com for more info

Scotland

Monday Ukearist

Edinburgh's very own ukulele gathering. We gather once a fortnight on Mondays from 7 to 10(pm!) at Mackenzie School of English near the foot of Leith Walk

6 John's Place,
EH6 7EP

Contact: John Hobson, +44 (0)7940 513969, jhobson@gmail.com
<http://ukearist.co.uk>

South Wales

Ukulele Nights

meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month at 8.30pm.

The Albion, Glebe Street, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales

Contact: Sarah Thomas: sarahredsedge@yahoo.co.uk.

Blog: www.ukenights.blogspot.com

(for songbooks, directions and more. Beginners very welcome)

Germany

Ukulele Club of Germany

info@ukulelenclub.de

www.ukulelenclub.de (home page)

www.ukulelenboard.de (message board)

Deutscher Ukulelenclub

c/o Raimund Sper

Korneliusstrasse 1

D-47441 Moers

Ukulele Clubs continued

tel. +49/2841-394837
fax + 49/2841-394836
www.ukulelenclub.de

Holland

Ukulele Jamboree in Rotterdam - hosted by 'The Uke Box'
The night is comprised of a workshop, performances & open mic.
To Join the Mailing List send an e-mail to: guaranteed2swoon@gmail.com

To read more about this and our other ukulele projects go to:
<http://www.ukulele-interventie.blogspot.com> (Dutch)
Visit my personal blog spot and click on 'Ukulele' under "Contents" (English)
<http://www.shelleyrickey.blogspot.com>

'Uke & D'Uke'
<http://ukeandduke.blogspot.com/> (in Dutch)

Note: Shelley has an Etsy store where you can find ukulele related items for sale, check it out: <http://www.thejumpingfleamarket.etsy.com>

France

Ukulele Club of Paris
Thursday starting 7:30 PM
Meetings are announced on the website King David Ukulele Station at this URL:
<http://www.ukulele.fr>
France Continued...

C.O.U.L.E.
Club Olympique de Ukulélé de Lille et des Environs
<http://www.COULE.fr>

"Stay cool, come and play with the C.O.U.L.E."

VSalele
Association des Ukuleliste de Valbonne Sophia Antipolis (Alpes Maritimes)
Visit www.vsalele.org for more info

Spain

Club del Ukelele de Madrid (SPAIN)
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=131466486122>

"Para todos los aficionados al ukelele que viven en Madrid"

"For all the ukelele fans living at Madrid"



USA

Lone Star Ukulele Festival

dates are 4/27-28 in Dallas

UkeLadyMusic and The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters are organizing the event.
more information coming soon.

Hawaii State Society of Washington, DC

Oct 9-11, 2009.

Herb Ohta, Jr. and Keale are the ukulele players that we
are featuring as the ukulele instructors.

UK Ukefest

July 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th 2009

Run Cottage

Hollesley

Suffolk IP12 3RQ

more information available soon on

www.ukulelecosmos.com/phpBB2/index.php

London Uke Festival And World Record Smash!!!

Calling All Uke players! All ages and abilities, 1000 Uke players in an afternoon
of entertainment with bands, food, drink, very special guests and a charity
money raising World Record attempt!!

Devonshire Square, London EC2.

contact Quincy at qnc@qnc.tv

20th June: Noon till 6pm,

France

Paris ukulele Festival

Le 4 juillet 2009 / July 4th 2009 "La Bellevilloise"

<http://www.myspace.com/parisukefest>

infos@parisukefest.com



Making beautiful music is your passion, helping you do it is ours.



This year edition will happen on July 4th with :
Kelli Rae Powell (USA) www.myspace.com/kelliraepowell
Tim Sweeney (USA) <http://www.timsweeney.us/>
Elvira Bira (Sweden) www.myspace.com/elvirabira

Ukulele Zaza (Belgium) www.myspace.com/ukulelezaza

Marie Darling (France) www.myspace.com/mariedarling
Patti Plinko and her Boy (UK)
www.myspace.com/pattiplinkoandherboy
Les Ukulélé Boyz (France) www.myspace.com/ukuleleboys47

Vonck and Vlam

touring from Holland to Istanbul - this summer...
www.vonck-vlam.eu
Check out the Website... that's great entertainment!

WORLD MUSIC DAY at Auburn Preserve Park

from Noon to 5pm June 20th. No fee. Join us for fun: For Festival Info contact:
NUKED UKES
loy@foothill.net

Announcing a new Meetup for The Tampa Bay Ukulele Society!

What: Tampa Bay Ukulele Society presents "open mic"
at New Harmony Coffee & Tea
When: August 29, 2009 2:00 PM
Where:
New Harmony Coffee & Tea
1949 Drew Street
Clearwater, FL 33765

Bill Tapia's 102nd Birthday BASH

Aloha friends,

Held in Los Angeles on December 5th from noon to 4pm
Stevens Steak House.

There will be a lot of ono food, and of
course wonderful entertainment throughout the afternoon.
Further information may be obtained at www.billtapia.com.



Essential Links from the World-Wide-Web

UkeTalk - <http://uketalk.com/links.html>

"Ukulele Spoken Here" is one phrase that comes to mind. If you want to talk ukulele or catch all the news that is news, this is a can't miss website.

Brudda Bu's Ukulele Heaven

<http://www.geocities.com/~ukulele/index.html>

If you'd like to learn the history of some of ukulele's greatest players, this site is absolutely essential.

Ukulelia - <http://www.ukulelia.com/>

The World's Greatest Ukulele WebLog" Need I say more?

Ukulele Cosmos - <http://www.ukulelecosmos.com>

One of the hottest ukulele forums on the web. Don't Miss It!

Ukulele Underground

<http://www.ukuleleunderground.com/forum/index.php>

Another really popular ukulele forum, lots of Hawaiian players and folks from the West Coast of the Mainland USA.

Flea Market Music - <http://www.fleamarketmusic.com/default.asp>

This is Jumpin' Jim Beloff's website. He has lots of great resources and an excellent forum as well. You can buy Flukes and Fleas there, too. Jim also has lots of songbooks, DVDs, and other great stuff there.

UkeLadyMusic - <http://www.ukeladymusic.com/>

Auntie Noel runs a really great shop. Her passion is ukulele and it shows.

Contact Us: phone 214-924-0408

or email noel.tardy@yahoo.com

Kiwi Ukulele

New Zealand's Ukulele Companion

<http://www.kiwiukulele.co.nz/>

Bounty Music

<http://www.ukes.com/>

Bounty Music Maui

111 Hana Hwy. #105

Kahului, Maui, HI 96732

open 9 :00 to 6:00 Monday thru Saturday * Sunday 10:00 to 4:00

Phone: (808) 871-1141

Fax: (808) 871-1138

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Columbus, Ohio 43215

Bill Foley, owner and luthier.

www.gvmh.com

(614) 228-8467

email: info@gvmh.com



<http://www.ukecast.com/mp3/>

Online Resources

<http://www.tikiking.com>

tikiking@tikiking.com

comment=Website listing:

Home of Tiki King Ukuleles since 1999. lots of neat Ukulele stuff, such as the webs largest Ukulele makers database, Custom Hand Built Tiki King Ukuleles, and ukulele stuff to see and buy. We have Flukes and Fleas, Ukulele Art Gallery, Ukulele classes, chord charts, CD's and more!

Bonsai Garden Orchestra

email: info@bgo.nu

Webside: <http://www.bgo.nu>

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/bonsaigardenorchestra>

World Music Festival "glattundverkehrt" on july 22nd .

www.glattundverkehrt.at

UkePics

Assorted Ukulele Picture Exposé

<http://www.ukepics.com/>

How High The Moon Publishing

Publisher of the Jam Book "Play Well with Other"

9826 James A. Reed Rd. Kansas City, MO 64134

816-965-0183 or 816-728-6936

<http://www.moonbookstore.com>

Uke Farm - <http://www.ukefarm.com/home.HTML>

Uke Farm Radio - <http://www.live365.com/stations/ukefarm>

GoChords

<http://www.gochords.com>

"GoChords™ is an easy-to-use writing and playing tool with moveable chord tablature!"

Live 'Ukulele

Tabs, lessons, and info for 'ukulele enthusiasts

<http://liveukulele.com/>